

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 STR-07
/090 W

-----082458 020758Z /10

R 020107Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7118
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2691

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ID, KN, PEPR
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION VISITS INDONESIA

REF: RANGOON 0708 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONTRAST TO THEIR RECEPTION IN RANGOON, NORTH KOREAN VICE PREMIER AND MINISTER OF TRADE, KONG JIN TAE AND HIS SIX-MEMBER DELEGATION'S FEBRUARY 25-28 VISIT TO JAKARTA WAS HANDLED IN A VERY LOW-KEY MANNER. LOCAL PRESS GAVE IT BRIEF, INSIDE PAGE TREATMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, VICE PREMIER KONG TOLD MINISTER OF TRADE RADIUS PRAWIRO THAT NORTH KOREA WAS INTERESTED IN IMPORTING NICKEL, COPPER, MANGANESE, TIN, TIMBER, RUBBER AND POSSIBLY CRUDE OIL FROM INDONESIA. IN REPLY, RADIUS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER BILATERAL
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DISCUSSIONS PARTICULARLY ON THE QUESTION OF EXPORTING INDONESIA'S MINERAL PRODUCTS. INDONESIA, RADIUS SAID, WANTS TO BALANCE ITS BILATERAL TRADE WHICH CURRENTLY IS IN NORTH KOREA'S FAVOR. (IN 1977, INDONESIA IMPORTED \$15 MILLION FROM NORTH KOREA AND EXPORTED TO THAT COUNTRY ONLY \$.2 MILLION.) THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT NORTH KOREA OFFERED TO SELL INDONESIA MORE RICE IN

ADDITION TO THE 107,000 METRIC TONS CONTRACTED FOR IN 1978.

3. FOREIGN TRADE DIRECTORATE OFFICIAL IN THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT (LATIEF TAMAN) DESCRIBED VICE PREMIER KONG'S TALKS WITH ECONOMIC MINISTER WIDJOJO AND TRADE MINISTER RADIUS PRAWIRO AS GENERAL IN NATURE COVERING ONLY BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES. HE CONFIRMED THE GIST OF PRESS REPORTS AND SAID THAT THE NORTH KOREANS WOULD PROBABLY IMPORT MORE INDONESIAN TIMBER. LATIEF DISCOUNTED THE LIKELIHOOD OF EXPORTING OIL TO NORTH KOREA PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF EXPORT COMMITMENTS TO THE AMERICAN AND JAPANESE MARKETS.

4. POINTING TO NORTH KOREA'S SHORT NOTICE OF THE IMPENDING VISIT, LATIEF SAID THAT VICE PREMIER KONG WAS PROBABLY NOT EXPECTING TO HAVE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI. IT SEEMED, HE SAID, THAT THE NORTH KOREANS WERE MORE INTERESTED IN IMPRESSING UPON THE INDONESIANS THAT THEY WERE ON THE MAP WITH THE SOUTH KOREANS.

5. VICE PREMIER KONG EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO MINISTER OF TRADE RADIUS PRAWIRO TO VISIT NORTH KOREA. RADIUS, WHILE ACCEPTING THE INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE, HEDGED BY SAYING THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER CABINET CHANGES FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND THAT HE COULD

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NOT BE SURE HE WOULD CONTINUE AS TRADE MINISTER, LATIEF SAID.
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